

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/SB1572
SPONSOR: Children and Families Committee and Senator Fasano
SUBJECT: Child Care Personnel Training
DATE: March 4, 2004 REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
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I. Summary:

The Committee Substitute for SB1572 requires that child care personnel in child care facilities receive training relative to shaken baby syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, and early childhood brain development.

This bill substantially amends section 402.302 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Shaken Baby Syndrome is damage to the brain or other neurological alteration that is caused by the violent shaking of an infant or small child or the impacting of the head of an infant or small child.¹ Such shaking often occurs as a result of anger or frustration when the baby will not stop crying or has not responded to the commands or desires of the caregiver.² Approximately 20 percent of the shaken baby syndrome cases are fatal within days of the injury, and the remaining children often experience disabilities ranging from mild learning disorders and behavioral changes to more severe disabilities such as profound mental retardation, paralysis, blindness, or remaining in a permanent vegetative state.³

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is “the sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation, including performance of a complete autopsy, examination of the death scene, and review of the clinical record.”⁴ The greatest number of SIDS deaths occur in infants between 2 and 4 months and usually are

¹ National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome.

² Florida’s Clearinghouse on Shaken Baby Syndrome.

³ National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome

⁴ Willinger et. Al., 1991, National SIDS/Infant Death Resource Center.

unexpected and take place during sleep. While not preventable, the risk of a SIDS death can be reduced by placing infants on their backs to sleep and on a firm surface, providing the infant with a smoke-free environment, and preventing the infant from becoming overheated.

Recent technological advances are pointing to the importance of promoting early brain development. While the brain develops rapidly until a child reaches the age of 12 years, the first three years of life are particularly important because the brain is highly sensitive to environmental factors. Early environments that are warm, nurturing, stable, and stimulating contribute to the positive cognitive, social, and emotional development of the child.⁵

Florida's child care facilities are required to ensure that their child care personnel receive training upon employment, as well as annual in-service training, as part of the licensing requirements. Specifically, child care personnel in child care facilities are required to take an approved 40-hour course in child care which must be completed within one year of employment with success demonstrated by the passage of a competency exam (s. 402.302(2)(d), F.S.). This 40-hour course includes a 30-hour introduction to child care which covers the following topics:

- State and Local Rules and Regulations (2 hours)
- Health, Safety, and Nutrition (4 hours)
- Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect (4 hours)
- Child Growth and Development (10 hours)
- Behavioral Observation and Screening (10 hours)

The remaining 10 hours of the initially required 40 hours is met by completing one or more of the following specialized modules:

- Infant and Toddler Appropriate Practices (10 hours)
- Preschool Appropriate Practices (10 hours)
- School-Age Appropriate Practices (10 hours)
- Special Needs Appropriate Practices (10 hours)
- Basic Guidance and Discipline (web based course: 5 hours)
- Computer Technology for Child Care Professionals (web based course: 10 hours)
- Literacy in the Child Care Environment (web based course: 5 hours)

In addition, child care personnel are required to take 10 hours of training each year to further their child care skills (s. 402.302(2)(d), F.S.). Five hours in early literacy and language development for young children are required as part of one year's annual training (s. 402.302(2)(d), F.S.).

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The Committee Substitute for SB 1572 requires that child care personnel in child care facilities receive training relative to shaken baby syndrome, sudden infant death syndrome, and early childhood brain development. Specifically, the bill amends s. 402.302(2)(d), F.S., to add the following training to the statutory requirements for the 40-hour course that personnel in child care facilities receive:

⁵ *Early Childhood Brain Development*, Policy Brief, Center for Family Policy and Research, University of Missouri-Columbia.

- Recognizing and preventing shaken baby syndrome,
- Preventing sudden infant death syndrome, and
- Understanding early childhood brain development.

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Children and Families reports that the topics being added by this bill are already included in the existing 40-hour training for child care personnel for child care facilities and, therefore, the bill would not have a fiscal impact.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None..

VIII. Amendments:

None.